



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Liz Walsh, Chairperson
District 1
Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson
District 2
Christiana Rigby
District 3
Deb Jung
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Monthly Meeting Minutes (approved)

Web-based Virtual Meeting

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

Monday, February 8, 2021

1:00 p.m.

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Liz Walsh, Chairperson; Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; and David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Craig Glendenning, County Auditors; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant

- I. COVID Vaccine Distribution** - Participants: Dr. Maura Rossman, Howard County Health Department; Dr. Shafeeq Ahmed, Howard County General; Ryan Brown, Howard County General; David Nitkin, Howard County General; Christina Ramsay, Senator Van Hollen's Office; Dr. Michael Martirano, Howard County Public School System; David Larner, Howard County Public School System; Alan Moss, Howard County Public School System; Kerrie Wagaman, Howard County Public School System; Jahantab Siddiqui, Howard County Public School System; Steven R. Schuh, Maryland COVID-19 Task Force; and Angela Cabellon, Office of the County Executive

The Chair opened the meeting with a brief introduction of the participants and summarized that the goal of the meeting to provide general information about the vaccine distribution process from the Federal, State, and Countywide perspective. Some of the highlights of the discussion included:

- The discussion started with a presentation and discussion entitled, "COVID-19 Response Overview and Vaccine Distribution Update" by Mr. Schuh. Mr. Schuh's presentation highlighted the State's vaccine efforts and optimistically emphasized that many critical COVID indicators were trending downward.
- Christina Ramsay of Senator Van Hollen's Office discussed the federal perspective in the vaccine effort and offered the Senator's assistance in the County's vaccine effort.
- Dr. Shafeeq Ahmed President of Howard County General stated that the hospital was still treating COVID patients. With respect to the hospital's

vaccine effort, Dr. Ahmed stated that the hospital was completing its effort to vaccinate hospital employees and moving toward vaccinating the public.

- Dr. Rossman stated that public health officers were required to be competent in Mass Vaccination efforts as a condition of receiving federal funding. The Health Department started its vaccination efforts in mid-December. Currently, approximately 10% of the County has been vaccinated. Data is showing that people of Color are under-represented in number of people who have been vaccinated. Lastly, Dr. Rossman stated that there are approximately 16,000 – 17,000 Seniors that have registered to be vaccinated and approximately 8,000 Seniors have been vaccinated.
- Dr. Martirano discussed the HCPSS vaccine strategy for vaccinating educational personnel in an effort to have a March 1st School Reopening Phase-in. The goal is to have 8,000 – 9,000 of the most vulnerable students return to school over an eight-week period.

Some additional issues that were discussed:

- There was a discussion about the State's efforts to reach under-represented populations.
- There was a discussion about the State's rationale for sending vaccines to retail pharmacies instead of the local Health Departments.
- Moving Special Education teachers to the front of the vaccine priority order.
- The make up the Continuation of Government
- Vaccine data and data storage

II. Reports –

- a. Chair provided report on upcoming events; work of staff
- b. Councilmember Jones provided updates on MACo
- c. Council Administrator and Auditor submitted written reports.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.